

REMARKS

After entry of this Amendment, Claims 1-27 will be all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-8, 11 and 15-16 have been amended. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found in the specification, e.g., at page 11, lines 11-21 and at the Examples.

No new matter has been added.

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 112

On page 3 of the Office Action, Claims 1-8, 10, 12-14, and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

In response, and while not agreeing that the rejection is appropriate, Claims 1-8, 11 and 15-16 have been amended to recite determining the methylation frequency of Fibrillin2 gene in a pancreatic specimen. Applicants submit that the amendment obviates the rejection of Claims 1-8, 11 and 15-16 as well as the rejection of Claims 10, 12-14, and 17-19 because of their dependency from their respective claims. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Objections

On page 4 of the Office Action, Claims 9, 11 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicants submit that the claim amendments obviates the rejection of Claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and therefore, obviates the objection of dependent Claims 9, 11, and 15. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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